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Subject: Activities and Opinions of
Spanish IS Representative,
Marquis VILLALOBAR.

Place Acquired: Geneva

Evaluation: B-6

Source: Marquis VILLALOBAR, Spanish IS Representative in
Switzerland.

Routed: FBIW

Report No. 1531487
Date of Info:
Date Acquired: April 1948
Date of Report: 12 Apr 1948

1. Following is a translation of a report from Source based on his recent conversations with the Marquis VILLALOBAR, Spanish IS representative in Geneva.
2. "The ideas of the Marquis concerning the secret work of the Soviets in Switzerland are simplified enough. The only line which he is following is that of ZAIKOV-Boris FEDOV and he does not know much more about it than we do. Aside from that he sees nothing. He admits his ignorance, however, and says that in Madrid, his superiors know absolutely nothing. He ties in the KEDIA case with the ZAIKOV line; he believes that KEDIA and BERDIE are very dangerous for Spain. He has just returned from Madrid and while there he himself went to the Georgian restaurant "La Boite de Castillo"; the people in this establishment are strongly suspected of having belonged to the Gestapo. The Marquis' service, that is, the General Staff, asked the police to give them the dossiers of the people of the restaurant. The Marquis was accompanied to the place by one of his superiors. He related to us in a naive fashion that he found himself in a 'romantic atmosphere of espionage'. However, he said that it is quite difficult to take action against this restaurant because it is protected by Prince BAGRATION, husband of the Infanta Mercedes de Davière. The family of the Infanta have very powerful relationships in Spain and Prince BAGRATION protects all White Russians in Spain. The Marquis believes that among the Russians there are probably a certain number of Soviet agents."
3. "The Marquis was amazed to find in the files of the Spanish IS very precise details on parachute training camps in the USSR, the more so since the members of his service have not even the most elementary knowledge of the geography of the USSR."
4. "The Marquis concluded that conversation with the remark that his service was absolutely lost and that the only possible thing was to reorganize it completely with the help of foreign socialists."
5. In a later conversation the Marquis VILLALOBAR pursued the subject of the ZAIKOV-Boris FEDOV line:

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2.

"Through the Marquis de VILLE OSAR we received some more information on the ZAIMOV-Boris POPOV line. According to the Marquis this line is directing its activity toward Spain; it passes through Perpignan, France, and ends in Madrid, via Barcelona, at "La Bodega de Castillo". The "Bodega de Castillo" is a restaurant founded in Madrid by a Georgian protégé of NEDIA. The Prince BAGRATION, husband of the Infanta Mercedes de Bavière, has granted his protection to the restaurant which enjoyed in the beginning of its existence the protection of the Spanish Falungs, which was closely compromised with the Gestapo. According to the Marquis, the ZAIMOV-B. POPOV line used the "Centrale Sanitaire Suisse" to communicate with Spain and perhaps with other countries. For Spain the following persons are involved: ESTIVALIS, René BERENGUER, and a certain Rodriguez LOPEZ. The latter came to Switzerland several times in 1947 in connection with "Centrale Sanitaire Suisse" activities. He apparently was involved as an accomplice in a criminal case in Geneva; he has frequent contacts with members of the International Brigade at Perpignan and Toulouse. The Marquis mentioned that no one named LOPEZ, or fitting his description or photo, is known to the Spanish police."

Field Comment: Source's comment that the Marquis de VILLE OSAR's concept of the Soviet IS is "simplified" and naive would seem to be justified. However, we have instructed Source to continue this contact in order to discover whether or not the Marquis has any grounds for his repeated statement that NEDIA and BERIDZE are connected with, as he terms it, the ZAIMOV-Boris POPOV line. Further information is being sent on NEDIA's connection with the "Centrale Sanitaire Suisse".

Traces:

VILLALOBAN: MSBA-338, MSBA-537, MSB-1465

ZAIMOV: PIR-1686, PIR-2354, PIR-2057, MSB-1465, MSB-1355,
BERN-792, WEL-2703, WEL-2463.

POPOV: MSB-1482, MSB-1355, MSBA-421, BLM-575.

ESTIVALIS: MSB-1465

BERENGUER: MSB-1465

BAGRATION, Prince: Probably identical with Prince Irakly BAGRATION-MOURIRANSKY, listed as pretender to the Georgian throne in JZY-1840. Reported in Spain as chief of the Georgian Liberation Committee in JNY-3775.

SUBJ: 14